

112TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. _____

To authorize the establishment of a Niblack mining area road corridor in the State of Alaska, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself and Mr. BEGICH) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on

A BILL

To authorize the establishment of a Niblack mining area road corridor in the State of Alaska, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Niblack Mining Area
5 Road Authorization Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. NIBLACK MINING AREA ROAD CORRIDOR.**

7 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Notwithstanding any prohibi-
8 tion against road construction in inventoried roadless
9 areas under the Roadless Area Conservation Rule estab-
10 lished under part 294 of title 36, Code of Federal Regula-

1 tions (and successor regulations), not later than 180 days
2 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of
3 Agriculture, acting through the Chief of the Forest Serv-
4 ice, shall establish a road corridor that follows 1 of the
5 2 routes identified as “Niblack Route 1” or “Niblack
6 Route 2” on the map entitled “Road to Niblack Mine”,
7 numbered 1, and dated June 21, 2012, to connect the
8 Prince of Wales Island road system in the State of Alaska
9 to the area of the Niblack patented mineral claims on the
10 southeast side of Prince of Wales Island.

11 (b) REQUIREMENTS.—A road corridor established
12 under subsection (a) shall—

13 (1) minimize the economic costs of the road
14 corridor by using, to the maximum extent prac-
15 ticable, the road network in existence on the date of
16 the establishment;

17 (2) minimize effects of the road corridor on sur-
18 face resources;

19 (3) prevent unnecessary or unreasonable sur-
20 face disturbance; and

21 (4) comply with all applicable laws (including
22 regulations).

23 (c) COOPERATING AGENCIES.—The State of Alaska
24 and the Prince of Wales Community Advisory Council may
25 participate as cooperating agencies during the preparation

1 of any environmental impact statement prepared with re-
2 spect to the road corridor under subsection (a).

3 (d) FEDERAL PERMITS.—It is the intent of Congress
4 that any Federal permit required for construction of the
5 road corridor established under subsection (a) be issued
6 or denied by the date that is not later than 1 year after
7 the date of application for the permit.